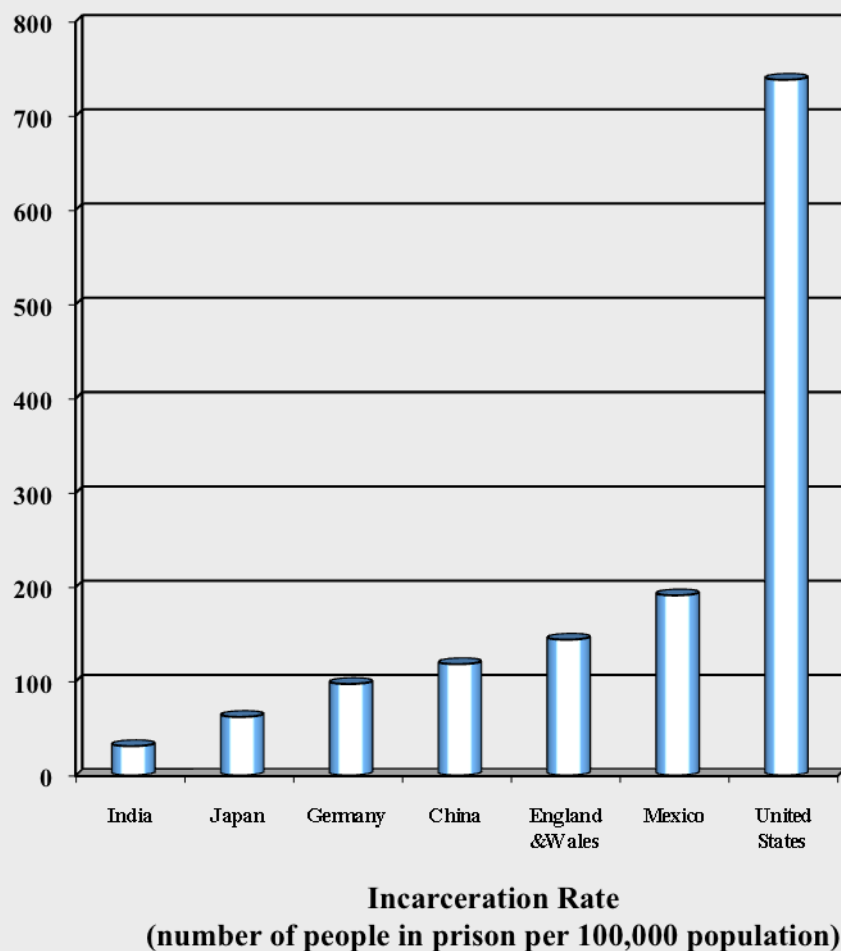
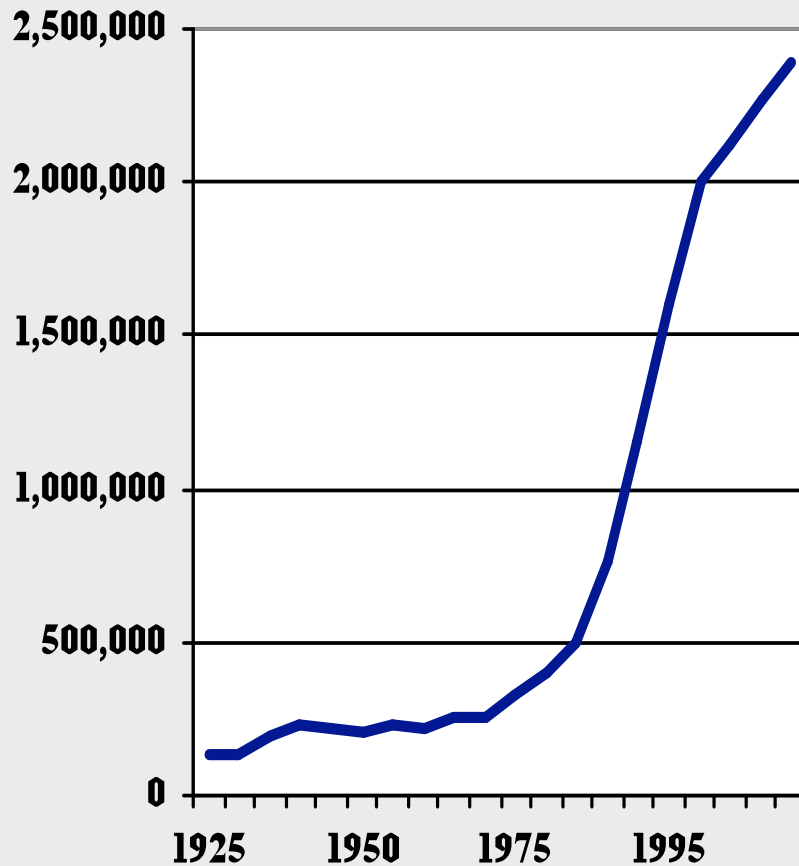


## National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2009: *The Scope of the Problem*



- The U.S. has 5% of the world's population, but 25% of the world's prison population.
- 7.3 million Americans are incarcerated, on probation or on parole.
- 2.38 million Americans are in prison— five times the world's average incarceration rate.

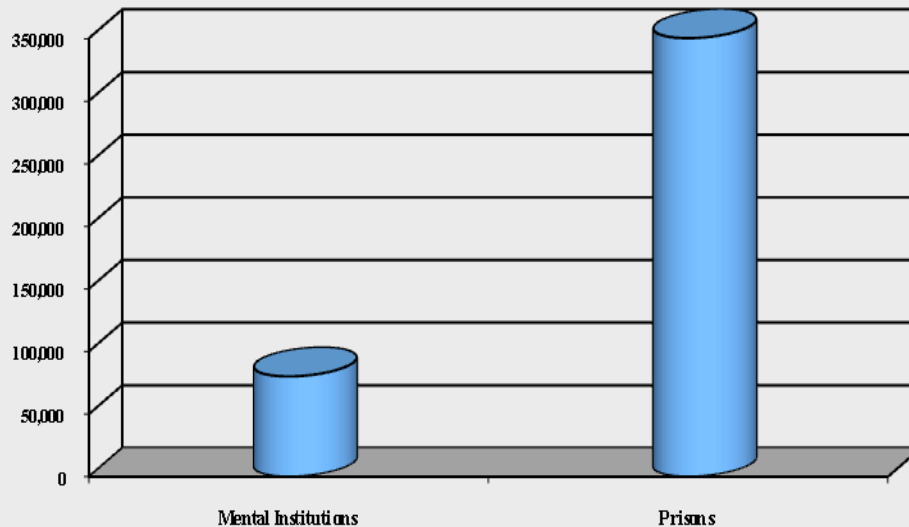
# National Criminal Justice Commission Act: *The Scope of the Problem*



**The U.S.  
incarceration rate  
has skyrocketed in  
the past decades.**

# National Criminal Justice Commission Act: *The Scope of the Problem*

## Warehousing the Mentally Ill in Prison



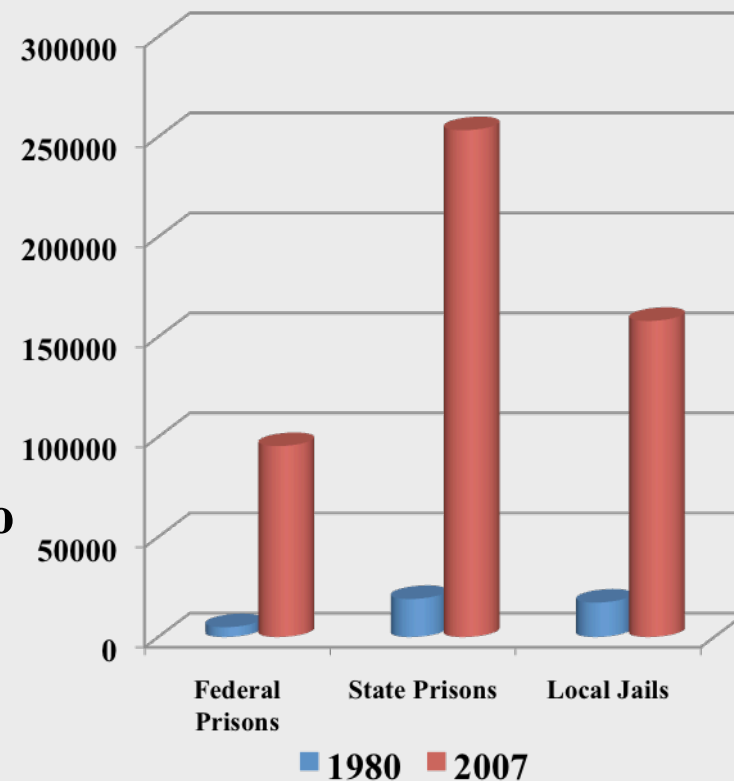
**4x as many mentally ill people are in prisons than in mental health hospitals, roughly 350k compared to 80k**

# National Criminal Justice Commission Act: *The Scope of the Problem*

## Drug Incarceration has Increased Sharply in Past 3 Decades

- Incarcerated drug offenders have soared 1200% since 1980, up from 41,000 to 500,000 in 2007.\*
- A significant percentage of persons incarcerated for drug offenses have no history of violence or high-level drug activity.

*\* In federal and state prisons and local jails.*



# **National Criminal Justice Commission Act:**

## ***A Special Problem: Racial Disparity in Drug Policy***

**African Americans are far more likely to be incarcerated for drug offenses than other groups**

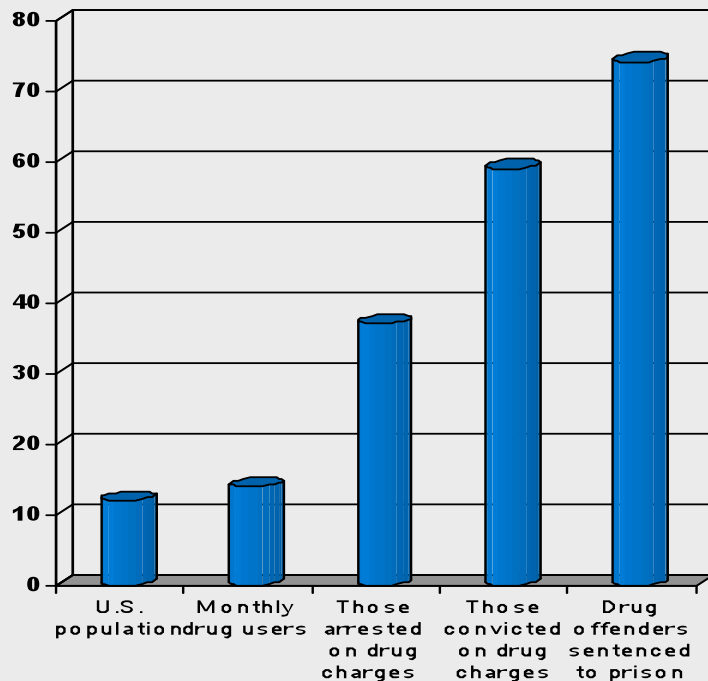
**African Americans = 12% of the U.S. population**

**14% of monthly drug users**

**37% of those arrested on drug charges**

**59% of those convicted on drug charges**

**74% of drug offenders sentenced to prison**



# **National Criminal Justice Commission Act:**

## ***The Scope of the Problem***

### **Gangs: A Major Threat to our Communities & National Security**

- **Approx. 1 million gang members, many of them foreign-based.**
- **Every American neighborhood is vulnerable.**
- **Gangs commit 80% of the crime in some locations.**
- **Mexican cartels are military-capable, and have operations in 230+ U.S. cities.**
- **Gangs are primary retail distributors of illicit drugs.**
- **U.S. gangs are involved in cross-border criminal activity, working in partnership with cartels.**

# **National Criminal Justice Commission Act:** *The Scope of the Problem*

## **Poor Prison Administration & Violence**

- **Prison administration is haphazard – no career progression, inadequate training, potentially violent working conditions, high administrator turnover, low accountability.**
- **In 2007, 60,500 prison inmates reported sexual victimization. Sexual and physical assaults are estimated to be 5-10 times reported levels.**
- **Criminally ill: health care in prisons endangers inmates and the American public.**